

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 15 and 16 are presently pending in this application and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended. More specifically, each claim has been amended to specifically recite that the stable cell lines maintain normal karyotypes and normal neuronal phenotypes beyond thirty cell doublings. Specific support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 1, lines 11-14 and page 3, lines 15-20, as well as throughout the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added by these amendments. A clean copy of the claims after amendment can be found in the attached Appendix.

Request for Interview

Applicants respectfully requested a personal interview with the Examiner to discuss the merits of the present Amendment. It is further requested that such interview be held prior to the Examiner formally examining the present Amendment. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 570-386-5744 to schedule the interview.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

On pages 3-4, in numbered paragraph 6, of the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-5, 12 and 15-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakafuka et al. (J. Neuroscience Res. 41:153-168, 1995) in view of Weiss et al. (U.S. Patent 5,851,832). In this rejection, it is the position of the Examiner that claims 1, 4-5, 12 and 15-16 are obvious over the combination of the teachings of the cited references.

On pages 4-5, in numbered paragraph 7, of the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-5, 12 and 15-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakafuka et al. (J. Neuroscience Res. 41: 153-168, 1995) in view of Weiss et al. (U.S. Patent 5,851,832) and further in view of Eilers et al. (Nature 340: 66-68, 1989) and/or Evans et al. (Science 240: 889-895, 1988). In this rejection, it is the position of the Examiner that claims 1, 4-5, 12 and 15-16 are obvious over the combination of the teachings of the cited references.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. Each rejection was specifically addressed in the Response Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116, filed July 8, 2002. In an Advisory Action, dated July 18, 2002, the Examiner stated:

Applicants argue limitations not recited in the claims, or argue art citations not relevant to the rejections made of record; thereby, being moot. See also MPEP 608.01(o) as it relates to arguments merely concerning ... the semantics between "cultures" and "cell lines"; thereby, also being not persuasive.

In response, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1 and 12 to specifically recite that the stable cell lines maintain normal karyotypes and normal neuronal phenotypes beyond thirty cell doublings. These limitations are now specifically recited in the claims.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that in the Response Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116, Applicants were not arguing the semantics between "cultures" and "cell lines" but were emphasizing the differences between unstable cell cultures and stable cell lines. The expressions "stable cell lines" and "stable clonal cell lines" are part of the preamble of claims 1 and 12, respectively.

In view of the arguments presented in the Response Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 and the present amendment of claims 1 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that no combination of the teachings of the cited references would result in stable cell lines that maintain normal karyotypes and normal neuronal phenotypes beyond thirty cell doublings. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that

these rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1, 4, 5, 12
15 and 16 be allowed.


All rejections having been addressed, it is
respectfully submitted that the present application is in
condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is
earnestly solicited.

Should any matters remain in this application which
might be resolved by interview, the Examiner is requested
to telephone the undersigned at (570) 386-5744.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX